

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes - Thursday, February 24, 2011

The meeting was held at the Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo and Kevin Rogers. Also present were Michael Hurley, Town Council Liaison, Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jim Civitillo and Matt Mullen representing the Over the Hill Gang (Antique Cars) and Mike Orsini, representative from the nonprofit group in memory of Loretta Nakos Pemble.

A. Public Comments.

Chairperson Ragonese welcomed Jim Civitillo and Matt Mullen. They gave a presentation on holding an antique car show at Cove Park on Sunday, October 23, 2011, with a rain date of October 30, 2011. They represented the Over the Hill Gang – a car club for antique cars. Their group would be responsible for the event, and the money raised after expenses would be donated to the Wethersfield Police Explorers. Their estimated event time is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cars would be charged a fee for entry. They would provide the Parks and Recreation Department with the necessary insurance certificates. In the event of rain, the cars do not come out and the event would be postponed. They would have a DJ playing oldies as visitors checked out the cars. No entry fee for visitors. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the number of cars that might attend. Mr. Civitillo explained that for a first time car show they did not know what to expect. Other shows have drawn between 60-200 cars. They would have a food vendor, Up in Smoke (barbecue). They would coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department all the necessary logistics for the event, including trash, tables, port-a-lets, food vendor license, etc. Chairperson Ragonese thought it was a good idea to have an antique car show in town. Committee members concurred. Dan Silbo moved to approve the request from the Over the Hill Gang to hold an antique car show at Cove Park on Sunday, October 23, 2011, with a rain date of October 30, 2011. The motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and approved unanimously. Mr. Civitillo thanked the board for their review and approval.

The next member of the public to speak was Mike Orsini. Chairperson Ragonese welcomed him to their meeting. Mr. Orsini explained that he is a member of a non-profit group in town working with Mr. Nakos to undertake a project in memory of Mr. Nakos' daughter, Loretta Nakos Pemble. Originally the group researched a splash park, but is now considering the donation of a picnic pavilion in Mill Woods Park. Mr. Orsini noted that the Mill Woods Master Plan identifies a picnic pavilion in the park located near the Bocce Courts in the picnic area. His group is interested in fundraising and building this picnic pavilion. They will work with the Parks and Recreation staff to identify the location, size and amenities needed for this facility. They will develop a budget and fundraise to complete this project. He is asking the Park Board to support his group's donation of this pavilion. Chairperson Ragonese thanked Mr. Orsini for their willingness to undertake this project in Mill Woods Park. Board members were very supportive of this request and look forward to working with him and his group on this pavilion. This picnic pavilion will meet a need in the park and help complete another project identified in the Master Plan. Dan Silbo moved to recommend the Town of Wethersfield accept the donation from the nonprofit group set up in memory of Loretta Nakos Pemble to fund and build a picnic pavilion in Mill Woods Park as presented by Mike Orsini. The motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and approved unanimously. Mr. Orsini thanked the Park Board and he will work with Parks and Recreation staff to work out all the details. Ms. Bagley will check with the Town Manager to determine if this donation needs approval from the Town Council.

B. Minutes – January 27, 2011.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of January 27, 2011. The motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – January 2011.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements - None.

E. Old Business.

1. Cottone Field Fundraising Campaign.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Cottone Lights Committee has met with the engineer designing the bid specifications for the lights. They will be specifying 70 foot candles for the field. Also, the bid will need to include a new item, emergency lights for the grandstand. These lights are required because people need to leave the bleachers safely in the event of a power failure. The target date to go out to bid is March 8th with the bids coming back to the town by the end of March. The Fundraising Committee is working on collecting the final pledges and will be sending out a letter to the remaining pledges.

2. Willard Pool Filters.

Ms. Bagley reported that the bids were opened earlier today for the Willard Pool Filters and the Town received some very competitive bids. The low bidder was Brock Enterprises at \$42,500. Six companies bid on this project, with a range from \$42,500 to \$69,660. The architect and staff are reviewing the low bid and will be making a recommendation to the Town Manager. The budget for the filters was \$78,000, so this bid is very competitive. The timetable for this project is to have the new filters installed by June 1, 2011 in time for the summer pool season.

3. Status on Cove Docks Application to State DEP.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this project. She explained that the engineering firm has submitted additional information to the State as part of the pre application process and they are waiting to get feedback from the State. Once all the pre application materials are approved, they will submit the application to the State for review. The State DEP will take up to a year to review and hopefully approve the application.

F. New Business.

1. Budget Fiscal Year 2011-12.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a report on the Park & Recreation budget for 2011-12. Ms. Bagley distributed a budget summary to Board members. She explained that the Town Manager asked department heads for a zero increase. The Parks and Recreation budget will be submitted with a zero increase. This budget was achieved because of utility savings and cutting the playground program. Ms. Bagley and her staff decided to cut the playground program because of low registration numbers over the past three years. In its place they will create two new programs that will have some help from the budget, but will work on becoming self sustaining programs. Also the new programs will be held rain or shine. In the past the playground program closed when it was raining. These new programs will serve the same age groups as the playground program (ages 7-15), but one program will be ages 7-12 and the other one for ages 13-15. Activities will be planned based on age groups. Board members reviewed the budget with Ms. Bagley and asked her to keep them posted on the budget process.

H. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by Kevin Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department